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THREE-LEGGED BEAR DIES WITH BOOTS ON.

When a bear loses one of his legs he does not find it necessary to appeal to the keeper of a zoo for quarters and rations for the rest of his life. According to Government hunter W. H. Caywood, a bear so crippled may destroy a great deal of livestock and put up a stiff fight when caught. A recent report by one of the predatory animal inspectors of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture contains an account of this hunter's experience in trapping such a bear, which was one of three killed by him in a few months in the ranges of western Colorado.

For the last two years stockmen in this region had complained of great losses of sheep and cattle through the depredations of the three killers. In June one ranchman lost nine steers. Later in the summer hunter Caywood was put on the job in this locality and by October 10 he had trapped and killed all of the trio. The last one was a brown male weighing about 850 pounds and having but three legs. Part of the left hind leg had evidently been pulled off in a trap or shot off some time before.

In roaming the range this brown bear would make three well-defined normal tracks, but the fourth one was merely a round depression, and where the ground was wet the imprint of hair could be seen. This unusual variation in bear tracks puzzled the hunter for several months and it was not until he trapped the animal that the mystery was cleared up.

After being caught in the trap this tough old raider, running on three cylinders, dragged the 25-pound trap and toggle three-quarters of a mile, and on the approach of the hunter took refuge in a thicket of quaking aspen. Here he put up what the hunter called an honest-to-goodness fight which nearly ended in a hand-to-claw encounter. The old marauder, minus one leg and with another dragging many pounds of trap and toggle, kept on coming even after a rifle had been emptied into him, and was finally killed at close range with a 38 calibre automatic pistol. This bear surely can be said to have died with his boots on.

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